

ing allowances to be paid to the officers that have been released from the service, I fear there will not be very much money saved. If not, the change will not bring an improvement. I hope, however, there will be an improvement, and that a little more care will be taken in the engineering offices with regard to the public works of the province because, for some reason or other, they have not been well attended to of late years. In my own constituency breakwaters have been allowed to fall into decay, out of utter carelessness, that might have been repaired with the expenditure of a very small amount of money. In other cases where the money was voted to make the necessary repairs, the money was mispent and wasted. I want to impress upon the minister the importance of making up his staff in the province of Nova Scotia, and having them look carefully after the public works that still remain there. A good many of these works have been destroyed by storms and practically nothing has been done, or very little, in many places to restore them. In eastern Nova Scotia practically no progress has been made since 1911 in providing additional accommodation for the people of that part of the province. Immense sums of money have been spent throughout the Dominion, the public debt has increased by hundreds of millions, but no part of this expenditure has found its way to eastern Nova Scotia since the Conservative party, the Unionist party, and the National Liberal and Conservative party have had control in this country. Whether the Government intends to go on in that way I do not know; but there is one thing that should be done if the Government wishes to do its duty at all, and that is to look after the existing public works and see that they are not swept into the sea by storms, when the expenditure of a small amount of money might rebuild and preserve them. I have nothing further to say except that I was very pleased to hear the minister state that if the method he is adopting does not work out well changes may be made in the future. It may be necessary for us to come back to the old arrangement if we find we are not saving any money by the new.

Mr. CHISHOLM: The minister has given a certificate of efficiency to Mr. Bernasconi but such a certificate ought to be in proportion to a man's efficiency. When Mr. Bernasconi was at the head of the staff at Sydney he had charge of the works in Cape Breton island, and many monuments exist there that I think do not

[Mr. Sinclair.]

testify to his efficiency. Whoever his successor may be, I hope he will be more successful than Mr. Bernasconi was. When I say this, I have reference to several places and in particular to Port Hood. The wharf there has been in the process of decay and destruction for the last five years. Mr. Bernasconi knew all about it, the department was aware of it, and the expenditure of only \$800 at the proper time would have prevented the destruction of which I complain. I notified the department, and Mr. Bernasconi as well, of what was taking place but without avail. The result is that this process of decay and destruction went on, and now it will require an expenditure of between forty and fifty thousand dollars to put that wharf in the condition in which it formerly was. Last year the Public Works Department had an item of \$7,000 in the general Estimates to repair that wharf, but you will be surprised when I tell you, Mr. Chairman, that not one dollar of that money was spent when it should have been, and when it might have saved from \$5,000 to \$10,000 at least. I refer to this item because I did not happen to be present the other night when the Estimates were under consideration. I now take this opportunity of placing my views before the minister, regardless of whether it will have any effect or not. The minister has been handing out encomiums to Mr. Bernasconi, but I have a word or two of praise to utter in regard to Mr. McKean. In my estimation he is one of the most efficient and painstaking men the department have. I am sorry to hear that he is being retired. I always found that during the storms we had on the rough coast of the county of Inverness Mr. McKean was the boy to go there every time although there were many younger men available. Mr. McKean was always found where he was needed and prepared to do everything he could; and speaking personally I would rather have Mr. McKean than any other man in the service in that particular part of the country. I am bound to say that because of the experience I have had of him.

Mr. LEMIEUX: I wish to say something on the same lines as the hon. members who have preceded me. I would like to call the attention of the minister to the dilapidated state of the various public works on the coast of Gaspé. I may, Mr. Chairman, be somewhat out of order but I will only occupy a few minutes and what